

(a) match an incoming digital resource request from said selected digital agent with a selected token value in its free-buffer-queue,

(b) route said selected token value to a valid-request-queue of a destination token controller of said plurality of token controllers, and

(c) move said incoming digital resource request into said multi-port memory, and

(5) a token-based responder connected to said valid-request-queue and said transmission channel, and said selected digital agent, said token-based responder being configured to

(a) read a specific token value from its valid-request-queue, said specific token value originating from a digital resource request generated by a source token controller,

(b) receive said digital resource request from a multi-port memory of said source token controller, and

(c) pass said digital resource request to said selected digital agent associated with said token-based responder.

14. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said token-based request processor includes a router to route said selected token value to said valid-request-queue of said destination token controller.

15. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said token-based responder is configured to route said specific token value to a free-buffer-queue of a source token controller.

Cancel claims 16-17.

REMARKS

Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the examiner.

The Drawings

Revised formal drawings will be submitted when the application is allowed.

Oath/Declaration

A substitute declaration identifying the citizenship of Henry J. Crawford is attached. The second inventor, Volker Lindenstruth, is German. The file history will reflect that Volker Lindenstruth is a recalcitrant inventor and therefore a substitute declaration from him is not attainable.

The Title

As suggested by the examiner, applicant has submitted a new title. The new title is believed to more accurately reflect the content of the claims.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of HIRABAYASHI and CARLSON. Applicant disagrees with the rejection, but for the purpose of expediting prosecution, claims 1 and 16-17 are canceled without prejudice.

The examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowed if combined with its base claim 1. Claim 5 has been amended as such. Claims 2-4 are amended to depend from claim 5. Thus, claims 2-5 should now be in a condition for allowance. Claims 6-12 and 13-15 have been allowed. In sum, claims 1 and 16-17 are canceled, the remaining pending claims, claims 2-15 should be in a condition for allowance.

Unentered Prior Art

Applicant submitted an information disclosure statement on December 30, 1997. Applicant has not received the initialized 1449 form from the examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner send applicant this form.

The Rule 47(a) Petition

Applicant has not received a formal communication with respect to the Rule 47(a) petition filed November 3, 1997. Applicant respectfully requests a formal decision on the petition.

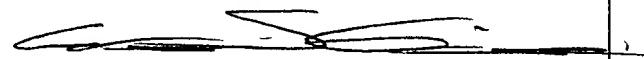
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

If there are any fees or credits due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, including any fees required for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.136, authorization is given to charge any necessary fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Order No. A-63739/WSG).

Respectfully submitted,

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